harvest handling, planting of nutritional garden, training of farmers etc. This assistance is given on project basis on demand.

Improvement in the Yield of Aquaculture Farms

334. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making any efforts to double the present yield per hectare from aquaculture farms;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed;

(c) whether any pilot projects are being introduced in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The objective is to achieve a yield of 3 tonnes per hectare by 2002 AD against the present yield of 2.1 tonnes per hectare from inland fish farming. For increasing the present yield from aquaculture, the Government have taken up production oriented programmes for both freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture development through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). The FFDAs are functioning in all states and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, while BFDAs are in operation in all coastal states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Production of Pulses

335. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that although there has been noticeable increase in the production of wheat and rice in the country, there has been no significant rise in the production of pulses during the past two decades;

(b) the steps taken to increase the production of pulses and make it available to the poorer sections of people; and

(c) whether any survey has been made after 1990 to identify, in terms of weight the per capita consumption of pulses in the urban and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been no significant rise in production of pulses.

To increase the production of pulses a centrally sponsored 'National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)' is being implemented through which assistance is provided to farmer so as to motivate them to use required inputs like improved seeds, farms implements, sprinkler irrigation sets, micro-nutrients, etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holdings and trainings for the farmers are also being organised for the efficient transfer of pulses production technology.

(c) As per Consumer Expenditure, National Sample Survey, 5th Quinquennial Survey, 50th Round 1993-94, the average per capita consumption of pulses for Rural & Urban sector was estimated at 9.25 kg & 10.46 kg per annum respectively.

New Shatabdi Express for Delhi-Amritsar

336. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any new Shatabdi Express between Delhi-Amritsar and Amritsar-Delhi via Jalandhar during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and